KING BLACK

SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN

DAVID LAND
LEISTEN D'ARMATA

LAND
fgd

MARVEL

SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN

KING IN BLACK

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LAND
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RAVENCROFT.
INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

ALISTAIR.

ALISTAIR, WE NEED TO TALK.

SLEEPING WELL, ALISTAIR?

Eh? Dad...?

DAD?!

BUT... BUT YOU'RE *DEAD!*

YES, HE IS. I'M NOT *ACTUALLY* HIM.

THIS IS JUST A LESS INTIMIDATING FORM.

I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

DO YOU REMEMBER LOUIS TUTTLE?

Y-YES. WE WENT TO COLLEGE TOGETHER. HE JOINED NASA.

HE THOUGHT VERY HIGHLY OF YOU. HE WAS MY PREVIOUS HOST.

HOST?

CAN'T EXIST IN THIS REALM WITHOUT ONE. UNFORTUNATELY HE GOT...

...*INCINERATED.*

ANYWAY, THAT'S WHERE *YOU* COME IN.

YOU NEED A NEW HOST.

BINGO! THAT'S THE WORD, RIGHT? "BINGO"?

IT'S A WORD, YES.

THIS FACILITY HAS QUITE A LABORATORY. SEEMS INSANE CRIMINALS ARE MOST POPULAR TO EXPERIMENT ON.

I CAN GAIN YOU ACCESS TO IT.

I CAN MAKE YOU WALK AGAIN.

YOU JUST NEED TO WHIP UP A FORMULA AND INJECT YOURSELF. I'LL GIVE YOU SPECIFICS.

THEN INTRODUCE IT INTO THE CLINIC'S VENTILATION SYSTEM.

THAT'S ALL?

THAT'S ALL.

DEAL.

"THIS BODES ILL."

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I DESPISE MY ABILITY TO SEE EVERYTHING.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS NOTHING THAT I CAN DO ABOUT IT.

THAT IS BEYOND THE PARAMETERS OF MY KIND. WE DO NOT ACT. WE CAN ONLY OBSERVE.

WE ONCE HAD A NAME AS A RACE, BUT IT IS LONG FORGOTTEN.

HUMANS THOUGHT US TO BE FALLEN ANGELS, BACK WHEN THEY GLIMPSED ONE OF OUR KIND UPON THEIR WORLD THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. THEY CALLED US *"GRIGORI."*

WE HAVE SINCE NAMED OURSELVES AFTER OUR FUNCTION.

WE CALL OURSELVES *"WATCHERS."*

THERE IS SO MUCH GOING ON DOWN ON EARTH. SO MANY PEOPLE. SO MUCH FUSS.

THEY OBSESS ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT IS IRRELEVANT AND IGNORE THAT WHICH IS VITAL.

I SEE IT ALL. THERE IS NOTHING THAT ESCAPES MY VISION.

IT IS MOST ODD, THEN...

THAT I DID NOT SEE THIS COMING.

I AM UNABLE TO MOVE. TIME HAS STOPPED AROUND ME.

THIS SHOULD PROVE...

...INTERESTING.

NEW YORK CITY.

David's ICE CREAM

ORSON!
NO!

MY BALLOON!

HUH?

THIS'LL MAKE ME A LITTLE LATE TO THE *BUGLE*, BUT JONAH WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT.

CAN'T LET A KID'S EXCITEMENT OVER A BALLOON END HIS LIFE.

IT'D BE A LOUSY WAY TO START THE DAY.

WHEEEEE!

AGAIN!

NO, NO *"AGAIN."* STICK WITH YOUR MOTHER FROM NOW ON, OKAY?

'KAY.

YOU NEVER RUN FROM MOMMY! EVER!

'KAY.

WHO SAVED YOU?!

DAREDEVIL!

HEH. YEEEAAH, THAT FIGURES. DO SOMETHING NICE, AND SOMEBODY ELSE GETS THE CREDIT.

AT LEAST THE WORLD'S BACK TO NORMAL. AND YEAH, FELICIA MIGHT BE ANNOYED WITH ME, BUT SHE'LL GET OVER IT.

BESIDES, I DON'T DO THIS FOR THE CREDIT.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING MYSELF.

DAILY BUGLE

PARKER! GOOD TIMING FOR ONCE.

GO WITH NED.

NED LEEDS?

NO, NED *BEATTY.* FIND OUT WHAT SHOOTING *"DUELING BANJOS"* WAS LIKE.

YES, NED LEEDS! *OBVIOUSLY!*

HEY, NED. WHERE'RE WE GOING?

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE...

IS IT MEAT LOAF DAY?

ALISTAIR SMYTHE WANTS TO TALK. ACTUALLY HE WANTED TO SEE *JONAH,* BUT I'M GOING INSTEAD.

THE SPIDER-SLAYER GUY?

THE VERY SAME.

ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

CLAIMS HE'S DEVELOPING CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS THAT HE SAYS CAN HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE PARALYZED.

SO HE'S A SUPER VILLAIN TRYING TO FIX HIS PUBLIC IMAGE.

SEEMS SO.

GOOD, BECAUSE THAT *ALWAYS* ENDS WELL.

ACTUALLY, WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IT WILL.

PERHAPS HE REALLY *DOES* WANT TO REFORM.

YOU NEVER KNOW WITH BAD GUYS. SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND WATCH.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

I AM KNOWN AS THE WATCHER.

YOU'RE A WATCHER. YOU HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL MONIKER?

UATU.

AND I AM--

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

YOU ARE ***KANG THE CONQUEROR.*** OCCASIONAL ENEMY OF THE AVENGERS. TIME-TRAVELING DESPOT.

IF I LEFT OUT ANYTHING, I DO APOLOGIZE.

YOU WATCHERS, SO FAULTLESSLY POLITE.

DO YOU KNOW WHY I'VE CAPTURED YOU?

I OFFER NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, SO NO, NOT REALLY.

"OFFER," NO. BUT YOU HAVE THEM IN ABUNDANCE NEVERTHELESS.

YOU HAVE BEEN OBSERVING HUMANITY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, YES?

GIVE OR TAKE.

GOOD. YOU POSSESS KNOWLEDGE IT WOULD REQUIRE LIFETIMES FOR ME TO LEARN.

THEN YOU REALLY SHOULD NOT BE WASTING TIME HERE.

IT IS *HARDLY* A WASTE.

I AM GOING TO *EXTRACT* YOUR KNOWLEDGE, UATU. FEED IT INTO MY COMPUTER.

THEN I CAN SURVEY IT AT MY LEISURE.

WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD YOU HAVE TO DO THAT?

BECAUSE, UATU, THIS TIME-TRAVELING DESPOT...

...IS ENDEAVORING TO *SAVE THE UNIVERSE.*

KLIK

FOOL. BLIND FOOL.

ALL HE IS DOING IS PROVIDING ME INROADS TO HIS SHIP'S A.I.

HE IS UNAWARE OF MY PSIONIC POWER. INSTEAD OF DRAWING ALL MY KNOWLEDGE...

...I AM *ABSORBING* ALL OF HIS.

I SEE THINGS THAT HAPPENED EONS BEFORE I EXISTED. AN EPIC BATTLE BETWEEN DARKNESS AND LIGHT...

...BEINGS I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

AND NOW... I...SOMEHOW... I AM SEEING THE FUTURE...SEEING WHAT KANG SAW... AND IT...

...THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...

...IT...

...SEES ME...

WHAT THE BLAZES?!

EMERGENCY OVERRIDE! ACTIVATE VOCAL COMMAND!

DISCONNECT! DISCONNECT!

VOCAL COMMAND OFF-LINE. RESETTING IN TWO MINUTES.

OH, FOR--!

OMEGA EMERGENCY OVERRIDE! RELEASE THE WATCHER!

GET HIM OFF THE SHIP! NOW! NOW!

YOU HAVE INSTITUTED THE OMEGA EMERGENCY OVERRIDE. WELCOME. PLEASE FOLLOW PRELIMINARY INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR--

COME ON!!!

OF COURSE.

TRY TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.

FABULOUS.

ALISTAIR? YOUR VISITORS ARE ON THE WAY UP.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

EXPERIMENTING, MONICA. SO UNLESS YOU'RE VOLUNTEERING TO BE A SUBJECT...

WHAT IS THAT YOU'RE INJECTING?! HAS IT BEEN APPROVED?

SOMETHING OF MY OWN CREATION.

AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE A TANK OF IT PUMPING INTO THE VENTILATION SYSTEM.

IT SHOULD BE THROUGHOUT THE ASYLUM BY NOW.

WH-WHAT?! YOU'RE...YOU'RE INSANE!

IN MY DEFENSE, THIS *IS* AN INSANE ASYLUM.

KAFF KAFF

AAAAAND WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING.

AH. PERFECT. IT'S STARTING.

UH-OH. SOMETHING'S WRONG. SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING NUTS.

COULD BE A GENERALIZED THING BECAUSE THEY HAVE CRIMINALS IN HERE, BUT...

WHAT THE--!!!

AN ECLIPSE? A SOLAR ECLIPSE?

THERE'S NO ECLIPSE TODAY! THEY'RE NOT LIKE TORNADOES THAT JUST HAPPEN! WHY--?

GLORIOUS, ISN'T IT? IT'S A DISPLAY OF THE SHADOW REALM.

AS MATTERS PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE, IT RIPPLES BACK TO THE PAST. HISTORY REWRITES ITSELF.

OR DID YOU JUST THINK CREATION RAN ONLY ONE WAY?

AH. I SEE YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY IN SHAPE TO REPLY.

TRUST ME. YOU LOOK FAR BETTER THIS WAY.

THIS IS *SO* MUCH MORE CONVENIENT THAN INJECTIONS.

BREATHE IT IN AND YOU BECOME ONE OF MY SLAVES. JUST LIKE MY HOST, ALISTAIR.

MY LORD WILL NOT BE SORRY HE GAVE ME THIS SECOND CHANCE.

A SHAME JONAH DECLINED TO COME. BUT...

"...HIS REPORTER WILL HAVE TO DO."

NED! THERE'S SOMETHING INSANE GOING ON--

OHHH, THIS IS *NOT* GOOD.

NED... JUST STAY BACK...

STAY BACK!!!

NED'S NOT IN CONTROL. GONNA NEED TO CHANGE MY COSTUME AND DEFUSE--

SLASH

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE FAST...

GOTTA PULL THE PUNCH... NOT DO TOO MUCH DAMAGE. THAT'S STILL NED IN THERE.

WAAAAH

HE LOOKS SURPRISED. WONDER WHY.

NOT EXACTLY THE BEST TIME TO QUIZ HIM ON IT THOUGH.

GOING UP!

THE CLOSER I GET TO THE SOURCE OF THE DANGER, THE MORE MY SPIDER-SENSE GOES NUTS.

USUALLY IT TELLS ME WHAT TO KEEP AWAY FROM, BUT THIS TIME I CAN USE IT AS A GUIDE.

AW GREAT. HERE COMES *MUMMENSCHANZ* AGAIN...

AND, *OH* PERFECT, HERE COMES THE CAR.

MOVE, PETER. MOVE, MOVE...

MOVE!!!

EXCELLENT. THE SOURCE IS JUST AHEAD.

SMYTHE--! I KNEW IT!

NO. NOT SMYTHE. I AM--

MISTER E!

OY.

"MISTER E."

NOT MYSTERY MAN. NOT MAJOR MYSTERY. MISTER. E.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START.

YOU!

THAT'S RIGHT, ME. SO JUST--

BROTHER!!!

WAM

WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO THAT, BROTHER?!

WE'RE ON THE ***SAME SIDE!*** WE BOTH SERVE OUR GOD!

YEAH, I'M PRETTY SURE YOU DIDN'T COME UP IN ANY SERMONS, SORRY.

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT.

I'M STRONGER THAN *ANYBODY* THINKS.

LISTEN TO ME, BROTHER...

WE'RE *NOT* BROTHERS! I DON'T HAVE A BROTHER!

AND IF I DID, HE WOULDN'T BE A LAMONT CRANSTON WANNABE!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT REFERENCE.

SORRY, BROTHER. YOU DON'T CATCH ME OFF GUARD TWICE.

UH-OH.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WELL, IT'S KINDA *EXPECTED*, WHAT WITH YOU BEING THE BAD GUY.

ME? THE "*BAD GUY*"?

WE ARE KIN! WE REPRESENT THE NATURAL ORDER!

WHAM

OUR PEOPLE WERE THERE AT THE BEGINNING!

WE SHALL CONTINUE TO EXIST AT THE END.

HUMANITY IS NOTHING BUT A COSMIC BLIP IN THE UNIVERSE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT!

KRAAAAM

Unnhhh...

CEASE THIS GAME, MY BROTHER.

STOP PRETENDING YOU ARE SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE NOT.

CONCENTRATE. C'MON, PARKER...

FOCUS ON HITTING HIM. FOCUS ON--

WAIT. NO. WHEN I HIT SHADOW NED, HE LOOKED SURPRISED. HE WASN'T EXPECTING IT.

HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT I'D GO THROUGH HIM, JUST LIKE I DID WITH MISTER E.

AND I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT IT. I JUST DID IT.

CLEAR YOUR MIND. RELAX. LET YOUR SPIDER-SENSE GUIDE YOU.

DO YOU SURRENDER? THAT IS VERY WISE, MY BROTH--

KRUNCH

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID THAT, BUT THIS GAME ENDS NOW!

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

EH?

ARRRHH!!!

WAS JUST FLYING BY-- THOUGHT I COULD BE OF SOME HELP.

THE BLACK KNIGHT?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

SAVING THE DAY. IT'S WHAT WE DO.

FIRST THINGS FIRST.

THE ECLIPSE... ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE?

CREATION MOVES FORWARD. UNCREATION RUNS BACKWARD.

WORK IT OUT.

DAMNATION!

NOW WHAT?

I AM NOT SURE.

HOPEFULLY THE ANSWER IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

EH?

HI.

WELCOME ABOARD THE RAKK 'N' RUIN II.

I'M THE CAPTAIN AND CREW. NAME'S ROCKET.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

LAND
fgd

RAVENCROFT. INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

SO THIS HAS BEEN A DAY.

WEIRD SHADOW CREATURES INVADE RAVENCROFT, ONE SNATCHES NED LEEDS, THE SUN'S ECLIPSING FOR NO REASON, AND THE ONLY AVENGER TO HELP ME IS *THE BLACK KNIGHT*, A LATTER DAY DON QUIXOTE WITH A SWORD AND AN ATTITUDE.

WHERE THE HECK ARE THEY GOING?!

THEY'RE SCATTERING.

OBVIOUSLY! WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.

GEEZ, THEY LET ANYBODY INTO THE AVENGERS.

THANKS A LOT.

SORRY. DIDN'T REALIZE I SAID THAT OUT LOUD.

OKAY, LET'S REVIEW: THE SUN'S BEING ECLIPSED, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHY.

WE'VE NO IDEA WHERE THIS MISTER E CHARACTER CAME *FROM* OR WENT *TO*.

AND I HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU KNEW TO COME HERE.

THAT LAST ONE I CAN ANSWER.

I HAD A VISION OF MERLIN. HE WARNED ME TO COME HERE.

MERLIN...

LIKE...

THE MAGICIAN?

THAT'S CORRECT.

WHAT, DID HE JUST APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE?

YES.

CRIPES!!!

I APOLOGIZE IF I STARTLED YOU.

IF?!

GOD, SO *THAT'S* WHAT IT FEELS LIKE WHEN YOUR HEART SKIPS A BEAT.

THIS IS AN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF YOUR POWER, WIZARD. BACK AT AVENGERS MANSION, YOU CAME TO ME IN A DREAM.

MATTERS ARE PROGRESSING FAR TOO RAPIDLY FOR ME TO WAIT FOR YOU TO BE ASLEEP AGAIN.

YOU MUST RETURN TO THE MANSE IMMEDIATELY. YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED THERE.

AS FOR YOU, YOU MUST RETURN TO THE OFFICE OF THE... WHAT IS THE WORD?

NEWSPAPER.

THE *BUGLE*? WHY?

"THE SHADOW YOU CALL ***NED LEEDS*** IS HEADING THERE TO DISPATCH ITS OWNER.

"APPARENTLY BEING POSSESSED UNLEASHES THOSE SENTIMENTS ONE ORDINARILY KEEPS HIDDEN."

HOLY CRAP, HE'S GONNA KILL JAMESON. I HAVE TO STOP HIM!

I...*DO* HAVE TO STOP HIM, RIGHT?

YES!!!

KIDDING, KIDDING.

SHEESH.

DAILY BUGLE

DAMMIT, TYSON! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY SCIENCE EDITOR! HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW WHY THERE'S AN ECLIPSE?!

SCREW IT! YOU'RE FIRED! GET OUT OF MY OFFICE!

DID YOU JUST FIRE NEIL?

HE WAS USELESS. PLUS I NEVER TRUSTED HIM. WHAT KIND OF MIDDLE NAME IS *"DEGRASE"* ANYWAY?

WE'RE WELL RID OF HIM. HE'LL WIND UP TEACHING SCIENCE TO EIGHTH GRADERS, MARK ME.

AND WHERE THE HELL ARE LEEDS AND PARKER?

JONAH, RAVENCROFT IS NEAR WESTCHESTER.

IT'S AN HOUR AND A HALF RIDE THERE, AT LEAST. BE REASONABLE.

"ARE YOU SAYING I'M NOT REASONABLE? I'M *ALWAYS* REASONABLE.

"MISS BRANT!"

YES, MR. JAMESON?

WOULD YOU SAY I'M REASONABLE?

NO NEED, SIR. YOU SAY IT ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.

SEE?!

BUGLE

NO... STOP IT...

GET OUT OF...MY HEAD...

I WON'T... DO IT...I WON'T--

YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO.

NO... IT'S NOT... TRUE...

YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME. I KNOW WHAT YOU KEEP BOTTLED UP.

I KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU *REALLY* ARE.

YOU... YOU DON'T... YOU--

DENIAL WILL GET YOU NOWHERE. NOW HOLD STILL...

THERE. THAAAT'S BETTER.

TO HELL WITH THIS! I DON'T CARE IF HE IS THE PRESIDENT!
SIR, YOU'RE RUNNING LATE FOR THE EDITORIAL MEETING.
I'M NEVER LATE. IT STARTS WHEN I GET THERE.
ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES WHEN YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF--
MISS BRANT, WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!

CRASH

WHAT THE--?!

HI, JONAH. LET'S TALK.

N-NED--?!

HI, HONEY.

I'M HOME.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, JONAH? WE HAVE SO MUCH TO CATCH UP ON.

JONAH! IS SOMETHING WRONG? WHAT WAS THAT CRASH?

ANSWER TO BOTH IS RIGHT BEHIND ME!

HOLY--!

HUFF HUFF

I...I DON'T KNOW...WHAT HAPPENED...

...BUT SOMEHOW...

...I KNOW IT'S SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT!

THAT'S ALWAYS YOUR EXCUSE FOR EVERYTHING, ISN'T, JONAH?

EVERY CRAPPY THING YOU DO, EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS...ALWAYS BLAME SPIDER-MAN. EVEN THOUGH HE'S SAVED YOU COUNTLESS TIMES.

ACCCKKK!

TOO BAD HE'S NOT HERE TO RESCUE YOU THIS TIME!

KRAAAACH

URRRRR
I'M BILLING YOU FOR THAT SKYLIGHT!

AVENGERS MANSION.

OKAY, MERLIN, I'M BACK. SHOW YOURSELF.

IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BLACK KNIGHT.

WISH I COULD SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM. WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE SUN?

A GREAT EVIL...

THAT ONLY YOUR SWORD CAN DETER.

THE *EBONY BLADE*? HOW?

THERE IS A GREAT EVIL ABROAD. THE EBONY BLADE MAY WELL BE ONE OF THE ONLY WEAPONS IN EXISTENCE THAT CAN DEFEAT IT.

DOES THIS GREAT EVIL HAVE A NAME?

IT IS CALLED...

KNULL.

"HIS FOLLOWERS SIMPLY CALL HIM GOD.

"HE IS A CREATURE OF IMMENSE POWER AND POSES A THREAT TO ALL OF TIME AND SPACE.

"AT PRESENT HE IS CONTAINED, BUT ONE DAY THAT CONTAINMENT WILL END AND HE WILL ROAM FREE, LEAVING DESTRUCTION IN HIS WAKE.

I HAVE FORESEEN IT. HIS LIBERATION IS INEVITABLE.

"BUT IT IS MY BELIEF THAT HE IS VULNERABLE TO THE EBONY BLADE. THAT MAY WELL BE THE KEY TO DEFEATING HIM.

"I CAN INCREASE THE MAGIC IT ALREADY CONTAINS AND ELEVATE IT TO THE POINT OF BEING AN ABSOLUTELY LETHAL WEAPON AGAINST HIM."

GIVE ME THE SWORD, BLACK KNIGHT. AND I WILL TEND TO IT.

WHAT'S MY NAME?

PARDON?

YOU KEEP CALLING ME BLACK KNIGHT.

YOU *ARE* THE BLACK KNIGHT.

WHAT'S. MY. REAL. NAME?

...

VERY GOOD.

SHADOW CREATURE! SHOW YOURSELF!

I SAID SHOW YOURSELF, YOU CRAVEN--

NOW, NOW...

THERE'S NO NEED TO HURL INSULTS.

EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU WAS *TRUE*.

ALL I LIED ABOUT...

...WAS WHICH SIDE I WAS ON.

SHUNK

TAKING OVER THE SWORD WAS NO PROBLEM ONCE YOU STABBED ME WITH IT.

AND TRUST ME...MY FOLLOWERS AND I HAVE VERY SPECIFIC PLANS FOR THE BLADE.

TRAGICALLY, THOSE PLANS DON'T INCLUDE YOU.

MEANWHILE...

HOLY--!

HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO KEEP TOUCHING ME?!

CLEAN LIVING AND FANCY FOOTWORK.

NO, IT'S MORE THAN THAT.

YOU'RE ONE OF US. CAN'T YOU FEEL IT? WE ARE KIN.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT AROUND FOR YOU TO REALIZE IT.

NO!!!

NOW OF COURSE, IF I STAY IN HIS BODY, NED WOULD BE UNHARMED BY THESE MECHANISMS.

HOWEVER, I FEEL THE NEED TO MOVE ON, SO...

BUH-BYE.

CRAP. CRAP, CRAP, CRAP.

THWIP

W-what...? How did--?

WHOA!!!

YOU OKAY, NED?

FINE... I'M FINE... I'M...

AVENGERS MANSION! THAT... THAT THING THAT TOOK ME OVER...

IT'S HEADING TO AVENGERS MANSION!

WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?

YEAH. IT WAS INSIDE MY HEAD, BUT I WAS INSIDE ITS AS WELL. TWO-WAY STREET.

OH NO... THE BLACK KNIGHT...

IT WAS A TRAP...

"...AND THE BLACK KNIGHT SPRUNG IT."

Unhh...

FOUND HIM!

Oh... perfect...

DON'T MOVE.

Shut up...

WHAT PART OF "DON'T MOVE" DIDN'T YOU GET?

Oh... good...I'm just hallucinating...was worried...for a sec--

THUD

HE DEAD? NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH HUMANS, SO IT'S KINDA HARD TO TELL.

MY SENSORS INDICATE NO. HE'S BARELY HANGING ON, THOUGH.

GOOD. LET'S GET HIM OUTTA HERE...

...BEFORE THINGS GET WORSE.

LAND
lgd

THIS *SHOULD'VE* BEEN AN *EASY* DAY.

GO WITH NED TO AN INSANE ASYLUM AND INTERVIEW SOME CRAZY GUY IN A WHEELCHAIR. EASY PEASY.

NEXT THING I KNOW, THE SUN'S GOING OUT, NED'S INHABITED BY SOME SHADOW CREATURE AND THE *BLACK KNIGHT* IS GETTING VISITS FROM *MERLIN*.

AND NOW THE KNIGHT'S IN SOME KINDA TROUBLE, AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING--

RMMMMMMMBLE

WAIT. WHAT'S THAT ROARING NOISE COMING FROM THE MANS--?

WHOA.

WAIT... I KNOW THAT QUINJET. THAT'S THE PROTOTYPE OF THE... WHAT WAS THE NAME?

THE *WAYFARER.* TONY STARK UNVEILED IT LAST MONTH.

CAN ESCAPE EARTH'S GRAVITY AND HAS AN *FTL** DRIVE. SUPPOSED TO BE JUST THE THING IF WE HAVE TO FIGHT INVADING SKRULLS OR SOME SUCH.

THWIIP

WE CAN TAKE THE BATTLE TO SPACE INSTEAD OF JUST WAITING AROUND FOR THEM TO INVADE US. STARK WANTS TO MAKE A FLEET OF THEM.

**THAT'S FASTER THAN LIGHT, WEB-HEADS! --EDITOR*

BUT WHERE THE HECK IS IT GOING?!

WHOA! STARK WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT THIS THING'S ENGINES!

THERE. NOW JUST HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW I'M OUT HERE.

THEN THEY CAN LET ME IN, AND I CAN BRING THEM UP TO SPEED ON WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH THE KNIGHT.

ALTHOUGH IT'S WEIRD THEY'D BE TAKING OFF WHEN THE KNIGHT IS LIKELY IN A TRAP THAT WAS SET AT AVENGERS MANSION.

HEY! GUYS! HOLD UP! IT'S--

AW CRAP.

WELL, WELL. HELLO, SPIDER-MAN...

...AND GOODBYE.

SO DIZZY... COULDN'T HOLD ON!

GOTTA...

OH, NOW WHAT?!

SPIDER-MAN, CORRECT?

NOT QUITE AS IDENTIFIABLE A COSTUME, BUT THE LARGE ARACHNID ON YOUR CHEST IS A DEAD GIVEAWAY.

KRAAASH

KRAAASH

OH, NOW WHAT?!

HOW *DARE* YOU?!

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS ASKING ME THAT. HOW "*DARE*" I.

THEY'RE ALWAYS SO SURPRISED.

LIKE THEY THINK I PUT ON THIS COSTUME SO I CAN KNOCK ON DOORS AND GET CANDY.

THWIP

AND NONE OF YOU UNDERSTAND.

I'LL DARE ANYTHING!!!

THWA

RIGHT.

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.

WHAM

FOR SOMEONE CLEVER ENOUGH TO DEVISE YOUR WEBBING, YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING OF AN IDIOT.

YOU'RE ENCOUNTERING SOMEONE WHO CAN STOP ***THE MIGHTY THOR*** IN HIS TRACKS.

DO YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE ***YOU*** PRESENT A THREAT?

FOR GOD'S SAKE, YOU MORON, WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE HERE.

RIGHT. ***SURE WE ARE.***

THAT'S RIGHT, DUMMY. ***YOU ARE.***

What the absolute heck?

ARE YOU OKAY?

HE HAS NOTHING IN HIS ARSENAL OF TRICKS THAT CAN--

ARE YOU OKAY?

YES!

HUMANS! YAK, YAK, YAK. CAN'T JUST ANSWER A SIMPLE QUESTION.

NO WONDER YOU'RE THE DOMINANT SPECIES. YOU PROB'LY BORED ALL THE OTHERS TO DEATH.

SO I KNOW *KANG'S* DEAL. WHAT'S YOURS?

I'M... SPIDER-MAN?

YOU CERTAIN? YOU DON'T SOUND SURE.

I'M SPIDER-MAN.

I'M ROCKET.

ROCKET RACCOON? LIKE THE BEATLES SONG?

WHAT'S A BEATLES?

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?

WHAT KINDA STUPID QUESTION IS THAT?

YOU'RE WORKING WITH *HIM!* KANG'S A NOTORIOUS PSYCHOPATH!

I TOLD YOU ONCE ALREADY, YOU AND I ARE ON THE--

THE SAME SIDE, RIGHT, LIKE I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT.

I'M TRYING TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE!

AND WHY WOULD *YOU* BE TRYING TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE?

BECAUSE I *LIVE WITHIN IT*, YOU IDIOT! WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK WE'RE HEALING *HIM?*

HEALING...?

HOLY...

THE BLACK KNIGHT! WHAT... WHAT *HAPPENED...?* HOW DID HE GET *HERE?*

APPARENTLY HE WAS *STABBED*. WERE IT NOT FOR ROCKET'S HEALING BAY, HE WOULD HAVE BLED OUT ON THE FLOOR OF AVENGERS MANSION.

SINCE HIS SWORD IS MISSING, I ASSUME THAT WAS THE WEAPON USED.

BY WHOM?

I PRESUME...

...BY ONE OF *THOSE*.

A SHADOW MINION...?

YOU KNOW THEM?

KNOW THEM? NO. FOUGHT THEM? YEAH. SOME KIND OF SHADOWY, ALIEN CREATURES, I THINK. BIG ON TAKING OVER PEOPLE.

KEPT CLAIMING *I'M* ONE OF THEM. NO IDEA WHAT THAT'S ABOUT.

NO. NO, YOU WOULDN'T, WOULD YOU.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

YOU'LL FIND OUT...

...IN DUE TIME.

I WILL KILL YOU ALL...

YES, I'M QUITE SURE YOU BELIEVE THAT.

I DO MORE THAN BELIEVE. I KNOW.

REALLY?

ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW.

I KNOW THAT I HAVE RIGGED THIS TUBE TO EXTRICATE YOU FROM YOUR HOST. UPON MY SIGNAL, IT WILL BLAST YOU OFF INTO SPACE...

...AND DIRECTLY INTO THE SUN WE'RE PASSING.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!

OH, GOOD.

SHADOW

"KANG, WAIT!"

SKREEEEEEEEE!

"DID YOU JUST *KILL* THAT THING? 'CAUSE I'M NOT THRILLED ABOUT THAT!"

"YOU CANNOT KILL SOMETHING THAT ISN'T ALIVE...CERTAINLY NO MORE ALIVE, SPIDER-MAN, THAN YOUR OWN SHADOW. IT'S SIMPLY A REFLECTION OF THE BEING YOU FOUGHT."

EEEEEEEE

...FROM A PATIENT.

OH... WONDERFUL.

WELL, I'LL BE.

SO WHO'S THE GIRL?

CAPTAIN MARVEL.

NOT ANYMORE.

NAH. CAPTAIN MARVEL'S A KREE GUY.

CAP? YOU OKAY?

I... I'M NOT SURE...

WHERE... AM I...?

SPIDER-MAN? IS THAT YOU...?

YEAH. LOOK, UH--

KANG!!!

AND HERE WE GO.

WHA--?! WHERE'D SHE GO?

SHE'S GONE INFRARED. AS SUCH, SHE'S INTANGIBLE. FORTUNATELY...

...IT'S NOTHING MY FORCE-FIELD CANNOT HANDLE.

WAAAAAM

WHY DO YOU PEOPLE ALWAYS GREET EACH OTHER BY LAUNCHING INTO A FIGHT?! DON'T ANY OF YOU SHAKE HANDS?!

IS THIS... A TALKING RACCOON?

WHAT THE HELL'S A RACCOON?

RODENTS.

THAT EAT *GARBAGE.*

SHADDUP!

MINUTES LATER...

I'M NOT SURE *WHAT* HAPPENED. ONE MINUTE I WAS TAKING A NAP, AND THE NEXT...

...THIS *SHADOWY* THING HAD TAKEN ME OVER. IT WAS INSIDE MY HEAD...

SAME THING HAPPENED TO A FRIEND OF MINE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS INSIDE ITS HEAD AS WELL.

YES! YES, I WAS. I...I COULD HEAR ITS THOUGHTS.

ALL THESE SHADOW MINDS... THEY'RE LINKED. WHAT ONE KNOWS, *ALL OF THEM KNOW.*

DID THEY TAKE THE BLACK KNIGHT'S SWORD?

YES, THEY DID. THEY'RE AFRAID OF IT.

THEY THINK IT CAN DESTROY THEIR LORD AND MASTER.

SO WE NEED TO GET IT BACK AND USE IT OURSELVES.

OH, RIGHT. KANG THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

YOU WANT TO BRING THAT SWORD TO THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS?

BULL. YOU JUST WANT TO RULE.

TRUE. SO TELL ME...

WHO WOULD I RULE IF EVERYONE WERE *DEAD?*

...

FINE. BUT WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.

I CAN'T WAIT.

ENOUGH! WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS. NAMELY, HOW'RE THEY GOING TO DESTROY THE SWORD?

OBVIOUS. THEY'LL THROW IT INTO A SUN.

That won't do it...

It could survive a sun easily.

Barely...

DANE! YOU'RE ALIVE!

ARE YOU KIDDING, BK? DO YOU KNOW HOW HOT THE SUN IS?

EARTH'S SUN? ABOUT SIX THOUSAND KELVIN.

WHAT HE SAID! OVER TEN THOUSAND DEGREES FAHRENHEIT! NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND THAT!

"It is no normal blade... Merlin forged it...from the Starstone... It's as much magic...as anything else.

"Trust me...a star...wouldn't do it."

WE DON'T HAVE TO GUESS. I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE TAKING IT.

KNOWHERE.

"NOWHERE"? WHY DOES THIS SOUND LIKE THE START OF AN ABBOTT AND COSTELLO ROUTINE?

K-N-O-W. KNOWHERE. I KNOW THE PLACE.

IT'S A PLACE?

"IT'S A GIANT SPACE STATION AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE. THE SEVERED HEAD OF A CELESTIAL.

"VARIOUS RACES SET UP SHOP THERE TO DO BORING SCIENTIFIC STUFF, PLUS THERE'S A MARKETPLACE THERE..."

OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF IT IMMEDIATELY.

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE MARKET I'VE HEARD OF WHO COULD DESTROY IT! SHE WIELDS BOTH METAL AND MAGIC.

WHO?

"SHE'S A TROLL WHO FORGES WEAPONS FOR SOME OF THE MORE BARBARIC RACES OUT THERE."

"A *TROLL?* LIKE THE KIND THOR FIGHTS?"

"THAT'S RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN. SHE ACTUALLY USED TO LIVE IN NORNHEIM, I UNDERSTAND, BUT SHE RELOCATED TO KNOWHERE."

YOU ARE ULICIA?

I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED DESTROYED.

"WHY DID SHE RELOCATE TO KNOWHERE?"

"TO GET AWAY FROM HER BROTHER. HE WANTED TO KILL HER. APPARENTLY IT'S A TROLLISH CUSTOM."

OH NO.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY IS EVERYTHING SHAKING?

HE FOUND ME. AFTER ALL THIS TIME...*HE'S COMING.*

"WAIT...WHO'S HER BROTHER?"

"I BELIEVE HIS NAME IS...

"ULIK."

LANO
fgd

KNOWHERE.

DAMNATION!

WHAT IN THE--?

ULICIA?!

ARRRRHHHH!!

HAH! THAT WASN'T SO DIFFICULT!

SO WHERE DOES YOUR SOUL GO WHEN YOU DIE, TROLL? VALHALLA? OBLIVION?

SEEMS YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

KLAAAANG

NOBODY KILLS MY BROTHER EXCEPT ME.

OUT OF MY WAY, TROLL!

MAKE ME.

AS YOU WISH.

I CAME HERE TO HAVE YOU DESTROY THIS BLADE FOR ME!

BUT NO, YOU HAD TO MAKE THIS DIFFICULT. YOU STUPID--

TWAZZAAAAK

IDIOT.

YOU OKAY, ULICIA?

I'M FINE, COSMO. THANKS FOR STEPPING IN...

I'M HEAD OF SECURITY FOR REASON.

WHAT WAS HAPPENINK HERE?

WELL, THAT SHADOWY CREATURE WANTED ME TO DESTROY HIS SWORD, AND THEN MY BROTHER CAME CRASHING IN...

WHAT BROTHER?

OHHHH PEANUTS.

WELL, THIS HASN'T GONE THE WAY I WANTED IT T--

GIVE IT HERE!!!

YES, I'LL GET RIGHT ON THAT.

KRAAASH

FOOL.

WHO'S THE GREATER FOOL? THE FOOL OR THE FOOL WHO FOLLOWS HIM?

STAR WARS QUOTE. YOU'RE A SPACE GUY, SO I FIGURED IT WAS APPROPRIATE.

WAAAAM

HOW IN THE BLAZES DID YOU GET HERE?!

HITCHED A RIDE WITH A TALKING RACCOON.

YOU'LL LOVE HIM.

AND YOU WILL LOVE BEING *CUT TO PIECES!*

BETTING I WON'T.

HERE. BETTER GIVE ME THAT BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF WITH IT.

THWIIIP

LET... GO!

SAYS THE SHADOW GUY ABOUT THE SWORD HE STOLE? YEAH, I DON'T THINK SO.

ZWAAK

OH, NOW WHAT?!

HUH. OKAY, **THAT'S** WEIRD.

FINE! LET'S KICK IT UP A NOTCH!

ZWAAK ZWAAK ZWAAK

WHOA! ROCKET! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE ***SHOOTING***, DUDE!

KEEP FIRING, IDIOT. SEE IF I CARE.

LET'S TEST THE ENERGY ABSORPTION PROWESS OF THIS BLA--
AH!!!

EXCELLENT!

KWAAK

KWAAK

KWAAK

UH-OH.

IDIOT.

GOOD TIMING.

YES, WELL, THAT COMES WITH BEING A TIME-TRAVELER.

AW, C'MON!!!

I'M LEARNING, SPIDER-MAN. ADAPTING. WHAT WORKED FOR YOU ONCE WILL NOT CONTINUE TO DO SO.

OOOOFF!

MY ATTACKS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUE TO FUNCTION JUST FINE.

RELAX, BOYS. CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS GOT THIS!

WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU--

--DOING?!

FILLING YOU WITH ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, WHICH IS SOLIDIFYING YOU!

SPIDEY! ROCKET! TAKE HIM!

HE'S TOOK!!!

WAAA

NOW WE'RE TALKIN'!

TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS BATTLE.

OUT OF THE WAY, SPIDER-MAN. ONE SIDE, CAPTAIN.

NO!!!

ALL YOURS.

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN THWART THE WILL OF *THE DARK LORD?* YOUR ATTEMPTS ARE AS NOTHING TO HIM!

I DO NOT ATTEMPT. I SUCCEED.

I'LL...I'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS! I SWEAR I'LL--

--KILLLL YOOoooUuu

SMYTHE!

UNNHHH...

WELL, HE'S STILL ALIVE, FOR WHAT THAT'S WORTH.

WHERE DID YOU SEND MR. E?

I MADE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS IN ANTICIPATION OF NEEDING SOMEWHERE SECURE TO DEPOSIT HIM.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE GALAXY...

LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT!!!

...THE COLLECTOR'S SHOWROOM.

OH, I DON'T THINK SO. I'VE NO IDEA WHERE YOU'VE COME FROM...

...BUT *THE COLLECTOR* DOESN'T HABITUALLY RELEASE HIS PRIZES JUST BECAUSE THEY ASK HIM TO.

"NOW, SPIDER-MAN... LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OTHER MATTERS."

OTHER MATTERS? KANG, IF I FIND OUT THAT CREATURE HAS BEEN HARMED...

I'M *TRUSTING* YOU.

DON'T MAKE ME *REGRET* IT.

WAIT... WHERE'S THE SWORD?

GODS, IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A WEEK TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST PACK UP. NOW THAT ULIK KNOWS I'M HERE, HE MAY COME BACK TO--

HAH!!!

THERE'S A DOOR *RIGHT THERE! RIGHT BLOODY THERE!*

WOULD IT *KILL* YOU TO USE IT? *REALLY?!*

WHY DON'T I JUST KILL *YOU* AND SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE?!

I STOPPED THAT SHADOW THING FROM KILLING YOU!

WAS THAT A MISTAKE?

YES!!!

TROLL SIBLINGS ALWAYS SLAY EACH OTHER! THAT WAY THE STRONGEST SURVIVES!

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ESCAPE YOUR FATE!

I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL YOU!

WELL, THAT WAS YOUR MISTAKE!

ZWOOP

WHAT THE--?!

TAKE HIM.

HE'S TOOK!

SMASH

ARRRHHGGGHH!

YOU OKAY?

Again... doors... What is with you people...?

CAN'T A TROLL KILL HIS SISTER IN PEACE?

'FRAID NOT, BOZO!

KRAK

NOT AS LONG AS THE *HEROES--*

KRAK

KRAK

--ARE HERE TO STOP YOU!

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

UH-OH.

BHWA-AAK

WHOA!

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!

DID...DID YOU JUST DO...?

UH, DO YOU TALK?

YES.

OF COURSE HE DOES.

'CAUSE I HITCHED A RIDE HERE WITH A TALKING RACCOON AND AN AVENGERS VILLAIN, SO NATURALLY...

SORRY, CANNOT STAY-- KIND OF BUSY.

OH, DON'T LET ME STOP YOU.

THIS PLACE IS INSANE!

AS INSANE AS TROLLS HAVING A TRADITION OF KILLING THEIR SIBLINGS?

YOU CANNOT HOPE TO UNDERSTAND THE THOUGHT PROCESS OF TROLLS!

YOU HAVE A THOUGHT PROCESS? COLOR ME SURPRISED!

TAKE HIM, GUYS!!!

UNNH!!!

STOP! STOP HURTING HIM!!!

Didn't... hurt...just getting... second wind...

YOU'RE AN IDIOT!!!

I FLED ALL THE WAY TO THE MIDDLE OF KNOWHERE TO AVOID YOU, AND YOU STILL CAN'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

DIDN'T... KNOW YOU WERE HERE... CAME FOR THE SWORD...

WHY?

WAAAAM

YEAH, I WAS KIND OF WONDERING THAT MYSELF.

I SENT HIM.

HOLY...

I SENT HIM HERE...

...TO GET THE SWORD.

DO... DO I WANNA KNOW WHY?

TO DESTROY THE BEING WHO WANTS TO ANNIHILATE THE UNIVERSE.

THE BEING CALLED *KNULL*.

WH-WHERE AM I...?

HUH?

WH--WHAT'S HAPPENING...?

I'M TAKINK YOU HOME.

WHAT THE--?!

I'VE EXTRACTED YOUR HOME LOCATION FROM YOUR MIND. OH, AND ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE POSSESSED BY THE SHADOW CREATURE? THEY ALL WANT TO BEAT YOU TO DEATH.

I'M STOPPINK THEM.

FOR NOW.

OH... OKAY... UH...

NICE DOGGY?

LAND
LISTEN
fgd

THE COLLECTOR'S SHOWDOWN

PLEASE, MY LORD...I BEG YOU...TO RESTORE THE POWER YOU TOOK FROM ME AFTER MY PREVIOUS FAILURE. I SWEAR I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN AGAIN...

YOU ASK FOR MY TRUST, DO YOU? I SHOULD TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT?

THE SWORD REMAINS A THREAT TO YOU, MY LORD. I CAN RID YOU OF IT FOREVER.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, MY CHILD, YOU HAVE CAUGHT ME IN A GENEROUS MOOD.

EH?

VERY WELL... I RESTORE YOUR POWER. NO LONGER NEED YOU INHABIT ANYONE. YOU ARE NOW ONCE AGAIN...

KRAAAAK

...YOURSELF!

WHO'D'VE THOUGHT THEY HAVE MOCKTAILS IN KNOWWHERE.

OKAY. RUN THIS BY ME AGAIN...

SLOWLY.

I REQUIRED *THIS SWORD-- THE EBONY BLADE* TO USE AGAINST A GODLIKE BEING CALLED *KNULL*...

YOU KNOW YOU CAN SIT.

I DO NOT SIT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN I DO NOT SIT. I ALWAYS STAND.

LIKE A HORSE?

I SUPPOSE.

EXCEPT YOU'RE NOT A HORSE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I NEED ANOTHER DRINK. KEEP TALKING.

THIS BLADE, IF WIELDED BY THE PROPER HAND, COULD PERHAPS SLAY THIS GOD-LIKE BEING.

YOUR HAND, I ASSUME?

I AM SWORN TO ONLY OBSERVE.

THEN PERHAPS SOMEONE MORE WILLING TO WIELD A WEAPON SHOULD BE THE ONE TO BEAR THAT BLADE.

YER TALKIN' ABOUT ***YERSELF***, KANG?

WHO BETTER?

THE BLACK KNIGHT. HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN ABLE TO WIELD THE BLADE AND HURT THESE CREATURES.

BUT ***YOU***, KANG? HANDLING A UNIVERSE-DESTROYING WEAPON? THAT'S A MATCH I'D ***NEVER*** WANT TO SEE.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REMIND YOU IT IS ***MY*** UNIVERSE AS WELL?

SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU BECAUSE YOU SAY SO?

GOTCHA COVERED THERE.

HECK, BRING IN SHADOW BOY-- I'LL TAKE HIM ON WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.

OKAY, OKAY, JUST EVERYBODY STAY ***CALM***, ALL RIGHT?

I AM RESTORED! I AM MYSELF! I AM. NOW AND FOREVER...

...MR. E!!!

I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING IN THIS CRAZY CONCOCTION.

AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW KANG DIDN'T *VAPORIZE* HIM.

YOU HAVE A WEAK GRIP, WATCHER! ONE THAT MR. E IS EASILY ABLE TO BREAK!

GUYS WHO REFER TO THEMSELVES IN THE THIRD PERSON ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

EVEN SPIDER-MAN *HATES* THE ONES WHO DO.

YOU DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF YOUR SITUATION, BROTHER!

SERIOUSNESS?!

I WAS FLOWN HERE BY A *TALKING RACCOON* AND AN *AVENGERS VILLAIN*...

...TO A PLACE WHERE THE HEAD OF SECURITY IS A TALKING DOG...

...AND A TROLL BROTHER IS RITUALISTICALLY HUNTING HIS SISTER!

ALL TO FIGHT A VILLAIN WHO THINKS HE'S *MY* BROTHER!

FORGET SERIOUSNESS...

...AND YOU!!!

OH GOOD. I WAS ABLE TO CONNECT WITH HIM AGAIN.

REJOICE AS YOU WISH, SPIDER-MAN. IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME. FOR I WILL DESTROY THE GALAXY!

THEN CONSIDER US THE *GUARDIANS* OF THE GALAXY!

PRETTY SURE THAT'S ANOTHER GROUP.

SHADDUP! I LIKE IT!

KA-ZAP

SORRY. AS LONG AS I CONCENTRATE, NOTHING CAN HARM ME!

NOT EVEN ME?!

ESPECIALLY NOT YOU.

AW NUTS.

YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND. YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME.

YOUR PREVIOUS TRICKS WON'T WORK THIS TIME, FOR I AM FULLY MYSELF AGAIN, EMPOWERED AND REINVIGORATED. THANKS TO THE LORD OF THE ABYSS, *KNULL*...

...I AM *MR. E!*

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU SAY IT, IT'S *STILL* A STUPID NAME.

WE'RE NOT FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE. UNDERSTAND?

EXACTLY.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAAM

UNHHHH...

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU SAID THAT...

NO, SERIOUSLY... I DON'T REMEMBER...

SO EVEN THE GREAT CONQUEROR KNOWS WHEN HE IS OUTMATCHED!

WHA...? *NOW* WHAT?

MAYBE WE CAN'T HIT YOU, BUT CAP'S RIGHT-- THE BLACK KNIGHT HURT YOU PRETTY BAD WITH THAT SWORD!

SO I THINK WE SHOULD GIVE *THAT* ANOTHER SHOT!

PULL ALL YOU WISH, SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT PART OF BEING UNABLE TO INFLICT HARM ARE YOU NOT UNDERSTANDING?

KEEP POURIN' IT ON!

FWAZAKK

I AM! NOTHING'S *WORKING!*

TO THINK THAT KNULL IS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU!

YOU CANNOT EVEN STOP *ME!*

WHAT POSSIBLE HOPE DO YOU HAVE AGAINST HIM?!

EH?

AH, THE WATCHER... STANDING AND OBSERVING. HOW VERY TYPICAL.

WITH LIFE PASSING ALL AROUND YOU, DO YOU PARTICIPATE? DO YOU ATTEMPT TO AFFECT IT?

DO YOU EVER DO *ANYTHING?*

NO! YOU JUST OBSERVE! YOU OBSERVE AND TAKE NOTES AND RECORD ALL THAT HAPPENS!

BUT YOU ARE SWORN NEVER TO INTERFERE!

YET HERE YOU APPROACH ME IN WHAT YOU NO DOUBT THINK IS A THREATENING MANNER, SO I WILL...WHAT? COWER IN YOUR PRESENCE?

COME ON! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, *HMM?*

WATCH ME.

FWAZAAAAK

HAH!!!

SO LET'S SEE WHAT THIS SWORD CAN DO--

--FIRSTHAND!

HE GOT HIM.

...

HEH.

HEH HEH.

HAAAHAAAAHHHHHAAAA!!!

YEAH, Y'THINK IT'S FUNNY, WE GET IT.

I FEEL NO PAIN!

NOW THAT I'M FULLY POWERED, NOT EVEN THIS BLADE CAN STOP ME!

WHAM

NOT THAT BLADE...

...AND NOT ANY OF YOU!

Ah. I think I get it.

IMAGINE! EVEN MY ALMIGHTY LORD FEARED THIS BLADE.

BUT HE'LL SEE. ONCE I BRING THIS BLADE TO HIS PRISON AND USE IT TO *FREE* HIM!

THEN *NONE* OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO QUESTION THE POWER OF GOD!

CAN I ASK HIM IF HE CAN MAKE A ROCK TOO HEAVY FOR HIMSELF TO LIFT?

YOU'LL NEVER LEARN, WILL YOU?

NEVER STOP JOKING.

EXCEPT WHEN YOU *STOP BREATHING.*

YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR TRANSGRESSION!

OH, NOW WHAT?!

YOU SEEM CONFUSED, DARK MAN.

ALLOW ME...

...TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT!

NOOOO!!

YOU...WON'T WIN. YOU CAN'T...!

YES...

...WE WILL.

WHOA.

WHO'S THE MARV?

ME.

DANG STRAIGHT.

SMACK

THE MISSION IS ONLY JUST NOW BEGINNING.

WHERE'RE WE GOING?

TO THE FUTURE.

COME AGAIN?

I AM INFORMING MY FUTURE SELF THAT I AM GOING TO HIS TIME TO FIGHT THE BATTLE I FORESAW IN KANG'S FUTURE CHRONICLES.

GLAD TO BE OF HELP.

...AFTER HE KIDNAPPED ME AND VIOLENTLY ATTEMPTED TO DRAIN MY MIND.

IT...SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME.

BRACE YOURSELF, CHILD. THE EFFECT CAN BE... DISCONCERTING.

I WAS EXPECTING SOME KINDA "*BACK TO THE FUTURE*" SPECIAL EFFECT, Y'KNOW?

*UH...*NO, I'VE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

IT'S A...NEVER MIND.

PROBLEM?

I...I JUST ASSUMED I...

THAT YOU'D WHAT?

THE OTHERS OF MY RACE ARE PREVENTING ME FROM TIME TRAVEL, VALUING OUR CREDO ABOVE EVEN THE UNIVERSE'S SURVIVAL. FOOLS. BLIND FOOLS.

I...I'M SO SORRY...

SO MUCH FOR MY PLAN.

RACCOON, READY YOUR VESSEL. THERE IS ONE THING WE ***CAN*** ATTEND TO.

WE NEED TO ATTEND TO EARTH'S SUN, AT LEAST.

KNULL... WHATEVER AND WHEREVER YOU ARE...I HOPE YOU FEEL *THIS*, YOU CREEP!

SHE DID IT!

YER FLERKIN' *RIGHT* SHE DID!

ARRRRGHHH!!

SOMETHING DARES HURT ME...

WHEN I ESCAPE THIS PRISON, WHOEVER— WHATEVER— DID THAT...

...WILL LIVE TO REGRET IT.

BUT NOT FOR VERY LONG.

WELL, THAT'S GOOD TO SEE, AT LEAST.

CAPTAIN MARVEL DID WELL.

AH. UH...

SORRY YOUR WHOLE PLAN DIDN'T WORK OUT.

LET US HOPE THE UNIVERSE SURVIVES.

IT ALWAYS DOES. WELL... USUALLY.

WE LIVE IN UNSUAL TIMES.

WE ALWAYS DO.

THE BLACK KNIGHT IS CURRENTLY HEALING BACK AT AVENGERS MANSION.

AND SMYTHE AND NED?

SAFELY AT HOME, THANKS TO COSMO. AND WHILE IT IS NOT A COMFORT I CAN PROVIDE YOU OR YOUR ALLIES, I *HAVE* WIPED THEIR MEMORIES TO GIVE THEM SOME MEASURE OF PEACE.

YOU CAN DO THAT?

WHY WAS I UP HERE AGAIN?

"I WONDER WHAT *FELICIA* IS UP TO TONIGHT..."

#1 VARIANT BY

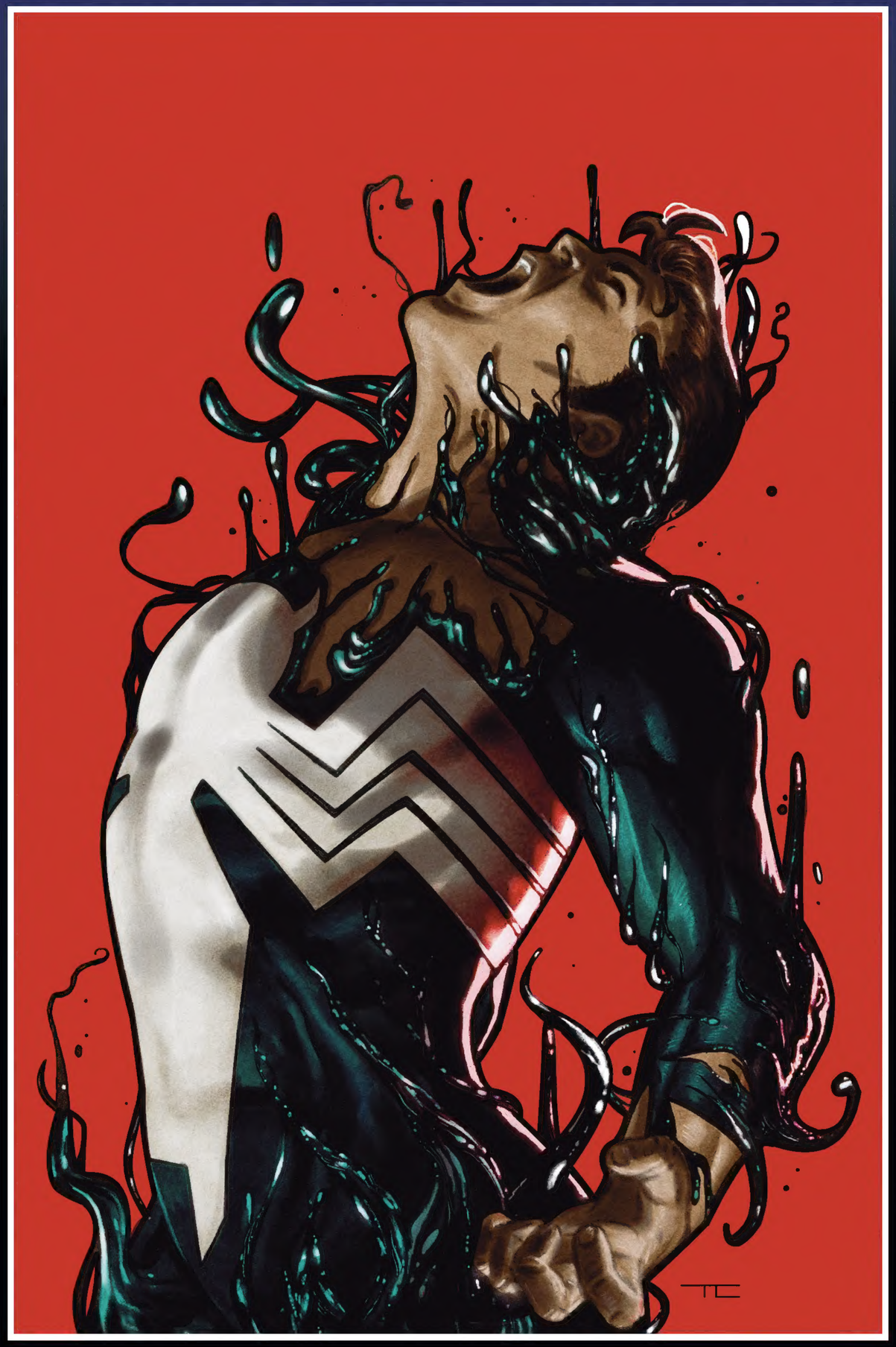
GEOFF SHAW & FRANK MARTIN

#1 VARIANT BY
KHARY RANDOLPH & EMILIO LOPEZ

#1 VARIANT BY
SUPERLOG

#1 VARIANT BY
ALEX SAVIUK & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR

#2 VARIANT BY
DECLAN SHALVEY

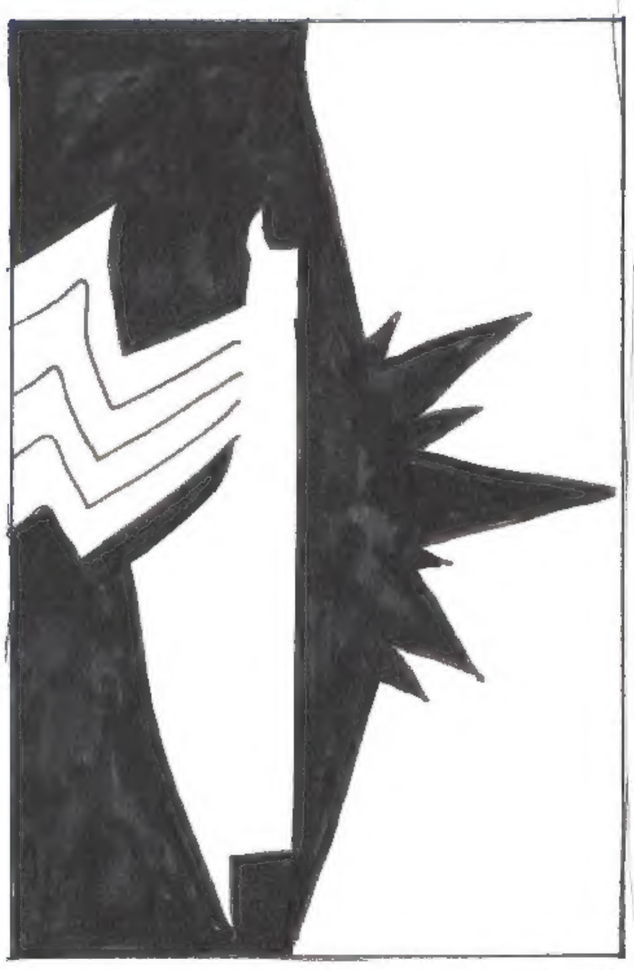


#3 VARIANT BY
TAURIN CLARKE

#4 VARIANT BY
DAVID NAKAYAMA

#5 VARIANT BY
DAVE RAPOZA

ISSUE #2 & #4 COVER SKETCHES BY
GREG LAND



1

- COULD ALSO BE A BACKGROUND INSTEAD OF THE CITY SCAPES.

2

3

4

5

6

ISSUE #3 COVER SKETCHES BY

GREG LAND

KNULL HAS SET HIS SIGHTS ON EARTH IN THE PRESENT DAY, *BUT HIS HAND HAS BEEN AT WORK AT THE EDGE OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE FOR YEARS!*

WITNESS ONE OF THE KING IN BLACK'S EARLIEST ATTEMPTS AT BIRTHING LIFE FROM THE DARKNESS OF NONCREATION! Take a wild trip with Spider-Man as he aligns himself with...Kang the Conqueror?! That can't be right! The Black Knight sounds like a more sensible team-up to stop an otherworldly plot threatening to turn every living thing in the universe into creatures made of shadow! But who else will be there to help our friendly neighborhood wall-crawler? You'll have to see it to believe it as Peter David and Greg Land reunite to continue the untold adventures of Peter Parker in the symbiote suit!

COLLECTING ***SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN: KING IN BLACK #1-5*** —
BY PETER DAVID, GREG LAND, JAY LEISTEN AND FRANK D'ARMATA.

MARVEL